Appln. No.: 09/581,004
Amendment Dated: May 9, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: February 8, 2006

MTS-3200US

Remarks/Arguments:

Remarks

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14-20, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32 and 27 stand rejected.

Claims 43 and 44 are newly added.

Certified Copies of Priority Documents

This application is a U.S. National Phase application of PCT international application PCT/JP99/05509.

The Examiner has not acknowledged receiving certified copies of the priority documents. In the Notice of Acceptance of Application, dated August 10, 2000, by the USPTO as the designated office, the certified copies were listed as received. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of such documents.

Section 103 Rejections

Independent claims 1 and 37 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Ejiri and Kenji. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended <u>claim 1</u> now includes features which are not suggested by the cited references, namely:

- ... an assumed-movement pattern image which is based on a **predetermined driving operation of the vehicle,**

- the assumed-movement pattern image **including a movement of the vehicle between a start position of the vehicle and a parking position of the vehicle in case of performing the predetermined driving operation;**

Amended claim 1 now explicitly recites that the synthetic image includes the circumferential state image **and** the assumed-movement pattern image. Amended claim 1 further recites that the assumed-movement pattern image is based on a predetermined driving operation of the vehicle. Furthermore, amended claim 1 recites that the assumed-movement pattern image **includes a movement of the vehicle between a start position and a parking position of the vehicle, when the vehicle is performing that specific predetermined driving operation**.

As shown, for example in Figure 7, the synthetic image includes **the surrounding space around the vehicle plus the assumed movement pattern of the vehicle** which shows how the vehicle is supposed to be moved between the start position and the parking position. In fact, even the tire trace of the vehicle is shown on the synthetic image.

Ejiri discloses a system for depicting objects around a vehicle and for producing driving operations suitable for the environment around the vehicle. In column 18, lines 12-28, Ejiri teaches that the operator of the vehicle is provided with three vectors to indicate to the driver which direction would be the safest to proceed. Ejiri, however, does **not** disclose a synthetic image that provides **two different images superimposed together on a single image**. These two separate images are (1) the circumferential state image and (2) the assumed movement pattern which shows how the vehicle has been determined to move between a starting position and a parking position. This assumed movement pattern is based on a predetermined calculation and is in addition to the actual existing environment around the vehicle.

The image provided by Ejiri is simply a means for avoiding obstacles in the environment around the vehicle. Applicants' invention, as recited in amended claim 1, requires that the synthetic image **provide a complete assumed-movement pattern image that shows the movement of the vehicle between the starting position and the final parking position**. This completed assumed movement pattern that shows the entire movement of the vehicle based on a predetermined calculation is **not** suggested by Ejiri.

Kenji teaches a synthetic image that shows a car from a virtual point of view. Kenji, however, does **not** supply the newly added features of amended claim 1 that are missing from Ejiri. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested for amended claim 1.

Although not the same, claim 37 has been amended to include features similar to amended claim 1. Amended claim 37 is, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Newly Added Claims 43 and 44

Claims 43 and 44, respectively, depend from claims 1 and 37. Each dependent claim further limits its respective independent claim by reciting the following limitation:

- **the assumed-movement pattern image includes tire traces**.

The feature of the assumed-movement pattern including the movement of the vehicle between the starting position and a final parking position, tire traces of the vehicle as they would be made between the starting position and the parking position is not suggested by any of the cited references. Favorable consideration is requested for newly added claims 43 and 44.

Dependent claims 5, 8-9, 11-12, 14-20, 24, 26, 29-30, 32 and 43 depend from amended claim 1 and dependent claim 44 depends from amended claim 37. These claims are, therefore, also not subject to rejection in view of the cited references. Applicants respectfully submit that these dependent claims are in condition for allowance.
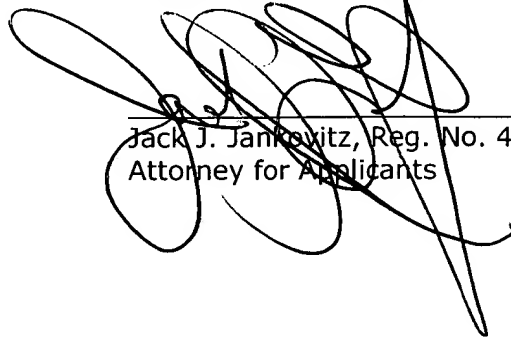
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Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance with the remaining claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 37, 43 and 44.

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

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May 9, 2006

Deborah Spratt